

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended). Device for closing an opening, ~~of the type~~
comprising:

a frame (4) that delimits a pass-through access opening (10) suitable for receiving a cover (6) and which includes a frame hinge knuckle (18), the frame hinge knuckle (18) having a hinge surface (38) and a pass-through hinge knuckle opening (40), the frame (4) having an outer side and an inner side, characterized in that the device also comprises an inserted plug (52) positioned in a recess (50) of the frame hinge knuckle (18) located on the inner side of the hinge surface (38) and which makes the inner side of the frame hinge knuckle (18) appreciably sealed off from the outside.

Claim 2 (currently amended). Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the plug (52) is made from an elastically deformable material, ~~particularly of one single piece, and especially of elastomer.~~

Claim 3 (previously presented). Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the plug (52) comprises an exterior side, turned toward the hinge surface (38) and means of evacuating (62) dirt (70) accumulated on the outer side of the plug (52).

Claim 4 (previously presented). Device according to claim 3, characterized in that the means of evacuating dirt comprise at least one elastically deformable element (68) that is movable between a blocking position in which it blocks the recess (50) and retains the accumulated dirt on the outer side of the plug (52), and a pass-through position in which it opens the recess (50) and allows the dirt to be evacuated from the outer side toward the inner side of the frame through the hinge knuckle opening (40).

Claim 5 (currently amended). Device according to claim 4, characterized in that the frame (4) extends along a frame plane (C-C) and the ~~movable~~elastically deformable element comprises at least a movable sealing lip (68) bending around an axis (Y-Y, Z-Z) positioned parallel to the frame plane (C-C).

Claim 6 (previously presented). Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the hinge knuckle opening (40) delimits at least a blocking surface (42, 44) of the cover (6) in an open position.

Claim 7 (previously presented). Device according to claim 1, characterized in that it also comprises a cover (6) suitable for closing off the access opening (10), the cover (6) being able to be moved between open and closed positions and including a cover knuckle (20) that cooperates with the frame hinge knuckle (18).

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Claim 8 (currently amended). Device according to claim 4, characterized in that the cover knuckle (20) is suitable for taking the ~~movable~~ elastically deformable element (68) to its pass-through position when the cover (6) is taken to its open position and when the amount of dirt has exceeded a predetermined threshold (d).

Claim 9 (previously presented). Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 10 (previously presented). Device according to claim 2, characterized in that the plug (52) comprises an exterior side, turned toward the hinge surface (38) and means of evacuating (62) dirt (70) accumulated on the outer side of the plug (52).

Claim 11 (previously presented). Device according to claim 2, characterized in that the hinge knuckle opening (40) delimits at least a blocking surface (42, 44) of the cover (6) in an open position.

Claim 12 (previously presented). Device according to claim 3, characterized in that the hinge knuckle opening (40) delimits at least a blocking surface (42, 44) of the cover (6) in an open position.

Claim 13 (previously presented). Device according to claim 4, characterized in that the hinge knuckle opening (40) delimits at least a blocking surface (42, 44) of the cover (6) in an open position.

Claim 14 (previously presented). Device according to claim 5, characterized in that the hinge knuckle opening (40) delimits at least a blocking surface (42, 44) of the cover (6) in an open position.

Claim 15 (previously presented). Device according to claim 2, characterized in that it also comprises a cover (6) suitable for closing off the access opening (10), the cover (6) being able to be moved between open and closed positions and including a cover knuckle (20) that cooperates with the frame hinge knuckle (18).

Claim 16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (previously presented). Device according to claim 6, characterized in that it also comprises a cover (6) suitable for closing off the access opening (10), the cover (6) being able to be moved between open and closed positions and including a cover knuckle (20) that cooperates with the frame hinge knuckle (18).

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Claim 18 (previously presented). Device according to claim 2, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 19 (previously presented). Device according to claim 3, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 20 (previously presented). Device according to claim 4, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 21 (previously presented). Device according to claim 5, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (previously presented). Device according to claim 7, characterized in that the device is a manhole (2).

Claim 24 (canceled).

Claim 25 (new). Device according to claim 2, wherein the plug is made of a single piece.

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Claim 26 (new). Device according to claim 2, wherein the plug is made of an elastomer.

Claim 27 (new). A device for closing an opening, comprising:
a frame disposed in an opening and including a hinge portion;
a cover received by the frame at said hinge portion; and
a plug separate from said cover;
wherein a surface of the hinge portion includes a surface opening communicating an inner side of the hinge portion to an outer side of the hinge portion and said plug is disposed on the inner side of the opening to substantially seals off an inner side of the hinge portion from the outside.

Claim 28 (new). A device according to claim 27, wherein said seal is capable of blocking dirt or gravel.

Claim 29 (new). A device according to claim 27, wherein when said cover is opened, a portion of said cover contacts said dirt or gravel blocked by said seal to unseal said seal.